

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0569

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2912

FOR AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM,
AND ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY MULCAHY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ELTN, UNGA, UV, NG

SUBJ: KOREA IN THE 30TH UNGA; THE AF PERFORMANCE

REF: (A) USUSN 5652 (B) USUN 6074

1. I CAN ONLY AGREE WITH AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN (REF A) THAT, ON
A QUESTION SUCH AS KOREA WHICH IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO US AND
WHICH CAN ONLY BE, AT BEST, OF MARGINAL INTEREST TO AFRICAN
COUNTRIES, THOSE WHO OPPOSED US SO ADAMANTLY SHOULD BE MADE
CLEARLY AWARE OF THE GRAVITY WITH WHICH WE VIEW THEIR ACTION.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, FOR THOSE STATES WHICH MADE AN EFFORT ON
OUR BEHALF, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD SHOW OUR APPRECIATION BY BEING
AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE ON NEW AID REQUESTS. I NOTE THAT
BOTH UPPER VOLTA AND NIGER WERE IN THE END REASONABLY RESPONSIVE
TO OUR REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE ON THE KOREAN QUESTION, IN SPITE
OF STRONG PRESSURE FROM THEIR MORE RADICAL NEIGHBORS, AND I KNOW
THAT FOR UPPER VOLTA IT WAS A MOST DIFFICULT DECISION TO MAKE
BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

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3. IT SHOULD BE NOTED ALSO THAT BOTH UPPER VOLTA AND NIGER ARE

AMONG THE POOREST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, IF NOT THE POOREST (UPPER VOLTA HAS AN AVERAGE ANNUAL PER CAPITA INCOME OF \$65), AND THAT BOTH HAVE BEEN FURTHER IMPOVERISHED BY THE RECENT SAHELIAN DROUGHT. BY ANY CRITERIA, AND QUITE APART FROM THEIR BEHAVIOR AT THE U.N., BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD BE AT THE TOP OF THE LIST OF THOSE MOST DESERVING OF OUR ASSISTANCE.

4. THERE IS ONE PROJECT WHICH, I BELIEVE, IS CLOSE TO THE HEART OF THE LEADERS OF BOTH NIGER AND UPPER VOLTA. IT IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FADA N'GOURMA-NIAMEY ROAD. DETERMINED TO INCREASE UPPER VOLTA'S FOOD PRODUCTION, GOUV IS ANXIOUS TO OPEN UP THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF PHOSPHATE DEPOSITS, WHILE NIGER, IF I UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY, IS DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TO ITS HOPELESSLY CLOGGED UP CONNECTION TO THE SEA THROUGH DAHOMEY.

5. AFTER FINANCING A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE FADA N'GOURMA-NIAMEY ROAD, THE RESULTS OF WHICH I PERSONALLY FOUND RATHER POSITIVE, AID DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FINANCING OF THIS PROJECT AND WE HAVE SO INFORMED GOUV AND GON. AS A RESULT OF THIS DECISION, OTHER DONORS MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO GET INVOLVED, INFERENCE BEING THAT, IF USG UNDERTOOK FEASIBILITY STUDY BUT IS UNWILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN FINANCING, THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE PROJECT.

6. NOTHING, IN MY OPINION, COULD MORE DRAMATICALLY ILLUSTRATE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN U.N. VOTES AND U.S. RESPONSIVENESS TO AID REQUESTS THAN A DECISION ON OUR PART TO TAKE A SHARE (PERHAPS HALF) OF THE FINANCING OF THIS IMPORTANT ROAD LINK. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE MESSAGE WOULD COME THROUGH LOUD AND CLEAR IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AS WELL, PARTICULARLY IN DAHOMEY. I, THEREFORE, URGE THAT WE RECONSIDER OUR POSITION AND MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE. WITH SUCH A U.S. CONTRIBUTION THE GOUV, WITH OUR HELP, WOULD BE IN A MUCH STRONGER POSITION TO SECURE THE NEEDED ADDITIONAL FINANCING (PERHAPS FROM THE FED) TO MAKE THIS LONG-SOUGHT ROAD LINK A REALITY.

GRAHAM

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